MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE:  Wednesday, 14 August 2019

TO: All media

ATTENTION: News Editors/ Reports

For Immediate use:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTER NZIMANDE APPOINTS PROFESSOR IHRON RENSBURG AS VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, has appointed Professor Ihron Rensburg as an Administrator for the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) in terms of Section 49B of the Higher Education Act.

Minister Nzimande appointed the Administrator on the basis of an interim report of the Independent Assessors, led by Professor Barney Pityana and Professor Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, who were appointed to investigate and advise the Minister on the sources and nature of governance and management problems at VUT.

“On the 31st July 2019, I wrote to the Chairperson of the VUT Council to give Council notice of my intention to appoint an Administrator for VUT and on the 6th August 2019, we received the response from the Council which decided to voluntarily step down,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande said that Professor Rensburg has been identified as an appropriate individual with the necessary skills and experience to act as an Administrator for VUT.

“Professor Rensburg served as the Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg from 2006 to 2017. He was also instrumental in guiding the University through its early years after it was formed in 2005 as a merger of the then Rand Afrikaans University, Technikon Witwatersrand and the Soweto Campus of Vista University. He had earlier held a position of Deputy Director General of the Department of Education, amongst other portfolios within the education sector,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande wishes to thank and wish Prof Rensburg all the success, and urged the entire VUT community to work with him, and give all the support he needs in seeking to stabilize and transform the institution.

-End-